

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Weather: Warm and dry conditions prevailed across the State last week. High temperatures ranged from 87 degrees in Medford to 58 degrees in Crescent City. Low temperatures were mixed; there were 26 stations that reported low temperatures in the thirties, 12 stations in the twenties, and five stations in the forties. Out of the 43 weather stations, 19 stations reported precipitation last week. Portland, Echo, Worden, and Baker City were the only stations that reported receiving rainfall more than one day last week. No weather stations reported more than a quarter of rainfall during the reference week.

Field Crops: Producers across Oregon welcomed last week's warm and dry weather. Improved field conditions allowed for seeding, tillage, and spraying in most areas. Wind slowed spraying in some parts of the northeast. The warmer weather also promoted crop development in most areas. Seventy percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition. Spring planting progress remained behind normal. By April 30, 78 percent of the spring wheat had been planted, compared to the five-year average of 94 percent.

Vegetables: The weather was favorable for vegetable growers last week. Early seed crops were starting to bloom. Home gardeners were beginning to harvest rhubarb in Wasco County. Growers were a little behind schedule planting cool season vegetables in Douglas County.

Fruits and Nuts: Dry and warm weather in the Willamette Valley this past week helped berries and fruit trees blossom. Excellent to superb pollination weather conditions were reported across most Western Oregon counties. Orchard work has resumed in Douglas

County. In Jackson County, grape vines begin to show growth development. Apples and pears are pollinating well in Marion County. Warm weather conditions also provided for good pollination in Mid Columbia counties. Some protection against frost early in the week was needed in Hood River County due to low temperatures at night. Cooler spring weather has slowed growth in some orchards in Sherman County. Pollination weather in Wasco County was almost perfect this past week. Cherries were able to withstand morning frosts with minimal damage. All fruit trees and berries were in full bloom.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Warmer and sunny weather allowed retail outlets and home gardeners to shop and purchase many different types of plant material. Greenhouses and nurseries were still busy shipping plant material to retail outlets. Nursery operations were rotating container plants, digging and balling smaller plants, and planting new field stock. Local plant sales were underway and drew large crowds to purchase plants. There were at least six different plants sales last weekend in the Portland area.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Warmer weather helped pasture growth in most areas of the State. Pasture grasses were starting to green up, but some of the rangeland continued to need warmer weather to really promote good growth. Livestock were being turned out into spring pastures, as supplemental feeding continued in some areas. Cattle producers were busy working herds in preparation for movement to the higher rangeland. Livestock were in good condition throughout the State.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 04/30/06

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	8	77	15
Subsoil	0	7	75	18

Crop Progress-Week Ending 04/30/06

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	84	52	88	84
Barley emerged	55	39	76	62
Spring wheat planted	78	66	92	94
Spring wheat emerged	48	31	72	75
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.8	5.5	-	-

Crop Condition-Week Ending 04/30/06

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	0	30	66	4
Spring wheat	0	0	26	71	3
Barley	0	0	19	77	4
Range and pasture	0	7	29	43	21

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: The weather in the Willamette Valley has been dry and warm. The crops are growing rapidly. Blueberries are blooming, strawberries are showing buds, blackberries and raspberries are taking off. Grapes seem a little slow to bud this year. Apricots appear to be the only fruit hurt by the early frost while the cherries, plums, prunes, peaches, pears and Asian pears all look good. Apples have a nice bloom so far and lots of bees. Farmers markets opened first of April. Shallots, carrots, onions and lots of different lettuces, mostly greenhouse grown. First season plantings going in, lots of planting going on. Greenhouse and nursery crops are off and running. Starting slow with the rain. Sunny weekends helped farmer market sales and weekend greenhouse sales. People out in droves. A great spring so far!

CLACKAMAS: Two weeks of warm dry weather have made dramatic improvement for all crops. Surprise downpour Saturday slammed a half inch down in late afternoon then brought an evening rainbow.

COOS/CURRY: Temperatures cooler than normal most of the week, and breezy. Continued cold night temperatures. Check for frost damage if no frost control. Ground conditions improved, although many areas have excess moisture. Pastures improved to mostly fair to good condition and livestock are starting to fill the bottoms; many "sacrifice areas" continue to be muddy and devoid of vegetation. Grass/clover silage cut this week. Some progressive producers are working ground for silage corn planting. Some fertilizer (N) applied to bench ground. Most dairies have turned cows out but are still having to supplemental feed (wet pastures). Cranberries at roughneck, some early hook. In Brookings, low temperatures for the period was 45.41 degrees, 0.3 degrees above the 5-year average. High temperatures for the period was 66.9 degrees, 1.12 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.0 inches. In Bandon, low temperatures for the period was 44.24 degrees, 3.72 degrees above the 5-year average. High temperatures for the period was 61.14 degrees, 2.77 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.0 inches.

DOUGLAS: No rain and warm weather helped to dry out top soil. Orchard work was able to resume with mowing and spraying fungicides most active. Plums did not set a crop this year. Cherries and pears finished pollinating. Cherries have an average to below avg set. Pears look to have set well. Apples blooming now with excellent pollination weather. First few male codling moth trapped. Spraying for codling moth will probably begin in another 10-12 days. Some aphid problems in plums and ornamentals. Field work for vegetables slow to get started. Planting of cool season veggies a little behind normal. Pastures and hay crops looking nice where livestock traffic was limited. Grapes shooting out with new shoots about 3 inches long. First fungicides will go on within the next week.

JACKSON: Lots of fieldwork. Warmer dry, weather has really made a big change in hay and grain growth. Lots of spraying this week since weather conditions were better. Apples and pears still in bloom with some petal drop. Has been good for pollinization. Grape vines are starting to show some growth. Weather was also good for vegetable growers. Lots of planting getting started. Crops already planted showing good growth. Lots of activity at nurseries as people were very busy getting plants in. Greenhouses very busy with getting flower and vegetable starts out. Most all livestock are now on green pastures. Pasture growth has gotten off to a good start this week. Most all livestock are looking good. Some cattle are now being worked in preparation to move to higher ranges.

JOSEPHINE: A beautiful week. Moderate temperatures, no killing frost, and no rain. Lots of dew in the mornings. Lots of activities in the truck gardens; nurseries are doing business now. Frost tender plants are being planted already. Home gardeners are cleaning up winter debris, and burning and cultivating. Aphids are active as are the bees, wasps, yellow jackets, and carpenter bees.

LINCOLN: Pasture conditions affected by management, not weather.

MARION: A full week of dry weather allowed most field operations to proceed. The mostly dry week allowed for tillage work as well as fertilizer and chemical applications. Grass seed crops are a little delayed in maturity but current warm conditions will speed up development. Early vegetable seed crops starting to bloom. Nurseries began irrigating. Apples and pears appear to be pollinating well. Topsoil is starting to dry up in some areas.

POLK: The weather has continued to be dry and clear. Crops such as cherries are doing great; in addition, the conditions for land preparation for spring seeding have been perfect.

WASHINGTON: Grain crops being planted. Clover for silage is ready to cut. Alfalfa growing well. Grass growing good for hay. Spot spraying on grass seed ongoing; and re-seeding drowned out areas of grass-seed fields. Prunes are blooming, apples are blooming. Strawberries are growing well and budding. Also, some cultivating being done. Bud-burst in grapes. Grass mowing between grape rows. Caneberries are beginning to bloom. Walnuts are leafing; filberts fully leafed. Rhubarb being planted. Sweet corn for canneries is being planted. Potatoes are growing up. Shrubs are being rotated; digging and selling ongoing. Livestock are out. Supplemental feeding ongoing.

YAMHILL: All crops enjoying the sunshine and warmer temperatures this week. The final bloom sprays were applied in cherries. Pollination weather for tree fruits has been superb this week.

EASTERN OREGON

CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON: Carrots for seed are being planted. Irrigation should be in full mode this week, throughout the three counties. In Deschutes County, two different individuals in the Bend area have purchased land in the Terrebonne area and plan on planting out vineyards for wine. There is another vineyard proposed for the area near Smith Rock in the Terrebonne area too. Seven days of warmer than average weather for this time of year. No precipitation for the second week in a row, much field work was accomplished. OSU Extension has put out an insecticide trial in the Tumalo area in Deschutes County to look at controlling clover mites in Orchardgrass, which has plagued that general area for years. Numerous grass hay fields throughout the three counties are being affected by voles this spring, some fields have been damaged terribly. There is little hay left in the 3 counties that is for sale. It has been many years since the supply of hay has been this short. Prineville Farmers market is scheduled to launch their first season beginning the first Saturday in June and run until the first Saturday in October. Bend is scheduling two Farmers markets this year; the downtown Drake Park market will run on its' usual Wednesday afternoon time slot, and the new market will run Friday afternoon on the east side of Bend.

GILLIAM/WHEELER: Finally some warm nights and days. Dry weather conditions allow producers to complete spring grain planting. Field conditions were still extremely wet in locations, and some areas were too moist to seed. Things greened up fast with the amount of moisture, it looks to be a good year.

HARNEY: Turn out nearly complete. A week of relatively warm weather has encouraged grass growth.

HOOD RIVER: Fair weather with warm daytime temperatures accelerated fruit tree bloom development and provided good opportunities for pollination. Some frost protection was required early in the week with clear skies and cold nighttime low temperatures. Cougarblight degree hours moved into the moderate to high risk range towards the end of the week. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear at post bloom (WSU stage 8); Red Delicious apple at full bloom (WSU stage 8); Bing cherry at post bloom (WSU stage 9); Pinot noir grapes at first leaf to 2-3 leaves unfolded (Eichhorn-Lorenz stages 7 to 9).

KLAMATH: Warm weather finally arrived. Spring planting for cereals going well. Some fields remain too wet for work, while plenty of field of work was being done in other areas. Wet weather continued to limit field work early in week. Some alfalfa crops showing the affects of too much water. Pastures are greening and some limited growth. Limited irrigation activity. Hay feeding continues. Calving and lambing continues.

LAKE: High temperatures during the week ranged from the mid 60's to lower 70's. These warmer daytime temperatures greatly improved the pasture conditions in the area.

MALHEUR: Good weather all last week. Fieldwork is catching up! Rivers are still high but threat of additional flooding has decreased. Range grass is not responding to the earlier rains as well as expected. Cool temperatures are having an effect.

SHERMAN: Warm days and cool nights last week with windy conditions later in the week. Warmer weather and dry week spurred renewal in spring seeding activity and it went gang busters as farmers hurried to get seed in ground as soon as possible, but later than originally hoped. Has been some re-spraying in stubble fields as roundup spraying did not do as expected, even though many growers have increased rates from the old 8-12 ounces up to 16 to 40 ounces (on a no-till setting). May have impacted by a brief shot of cold mornings 10 days ago. Cheat grass is heading and we are way behind on spring tillage. Still many spots too wet to get much done. Wheat is jointing, cheat grass is heading, fiddleneck is flowering, and jim hill mustard is bolting. Orchards are almost done blooming and looks like a good set of fruit. Range is fair. Slower spring growth due to cooler spring temperatures.

UMATILLA: Potatoes were 75-80 percent planted as of 4/24.

WALLOWA: Warmer weather throughout the week has helped grass conditions on range areas. This is good because many livestock owners are getting close to the end of their hay supplies. Producers are very busy with spring plantings. Most ponds have some water, which is better than 2005. Snow pack is still around 120% of normal.

WASCO: Warm weather with wind prevailed through the week. The wind delayed weed spraying on both winter wheat crops and no-till summer fallow acreage. Winter wheat generally looks very good. Wild rye showing up in grain crops. Alfalfa crops putting on growth, but no buds yet. Fruit blooms had all dropped by end of week in The Dalles area, while Dufur trees are in full bloom. Pasture grasses are doing well and starting to head. A few late heifers still calving. Sheep shearing in progress. Rhubarb starting to be harvested in home gardens and strawberries are in full bloom. Cherries in Wasco County survived a few more frosty mornings with little to no damage. The bloom on the Royal Ann cherries seemed larger than normal. Pollination weather was nearly perfect and early indications are for a big crop.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 30, 2006 (as of 11:00 am) ¹

Station	Air temperature ²				Growing degree days ³		Last week precip. ⁴			Season cum. precipitation ⁵			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN ⁶	Total	DFN ⁶	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Days ⁷	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Pct. normal	Days ⁷
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	36	62	51	+2	12	+1	0.09	-0.79	1	70.09	11.59	120	153
Bandon ⁸	44	61	53	+4	23	+9	-	-0.80	-	60.75	7.49	114	122
Crescent City	43	58	52	+1	17	-9	-	-0.81	-	75.53	15.94	127	131
Florence	29	64	51	+1	16	+2	-	-1.01	-	75.67	7.57	111	144
Tillamook	31	69	49	+1	6	-1	0.03	-1.12	1	84.36	6.74	109	155
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	35	82	56	+5	43	+22	0.19	-0.37	1	46.00	10.44	129	133
Corvallis	33	79	54	+3	30	+9	-	-0.49	-	46.38	8.25	122	133
Detroit Lake ⁸	31	83	54	+9	30	+23	-	-0.85	-	93.35	33.51	156	151
Eugene	34	77	54	+3	34	+8	-	-0.57	-	41.75	-2.44	94	122
Hillsboro	34	81	55	+4	35	+14	0.18	-0.23	1	39.61	6.66	120	129
McMinnville	35	80	56	+4	41	+17	0.07	-0.42	1	36.39	-2.67	93	130
Portland	37	80	57	+5	49	+20	0.17	-0.32	2	36.17	5.13	117	136
Salem	32	81	54	+4	31	+10	-	-0.49	-	44.53	9.91	129	127
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	40	86	60	+6	75	+33	-	-0.33	-	42.78	14.16	149	115
Medford	42	87	62	+9	81	+46	-	-0.21	-	24.08	7.58	146	93
Roseburg	42	83	58	+6	60	+25	-	-0.42	-	42.55	13.20	145	126
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	30	77	53	+7	31	+24	-	-0.28	-	13.11	2.45	123	80
Echo ⁸	34	81	56	+3	46	+7	0.02	-0.12	2	8.44	1.20	117	81
Heppner	28	79	54	+4	35	+14	-	-0.32	-	12.24	1.71	116	92
Hermiston	33	83	56	+3	45	+6	-	-0.14	-	8.74	1.50	121	63
John Day	31	73	51	+3	20	+6	0.10	-0.19	1	7.54	-1.40	84	95
Madras ⁸	25	78	51	+3	23	+2	0.01	-0.13	1	10.62	2.73	135	96
Moro	30	79	53	+5	28	+14	-	-0.14	-	15.19	6.21	169	76
Parkdale ⁸	30	80	51	+0	21	-5	0.07	-0.22	1	42.19	13.85	149	135
Pendleton	32	79	56	+3	43	+11	-	-0.21	-	10.90	1.39	115	87
The Dalles	35	85	59	+9	61	+40	-	-0.14	-	16.97	6.53	163	85
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	38	73	54	+11	32	+25	-	-0.20	-	18.27	4.98	137	103
Bend	29	77	49	+4	13	+3	-	-0.14	-	18.79	9.79	209	72
Burns	31	76	52	+7	22	+13	0.03	-0.12	1	12.64	5.55	178	88
Christmas Valley ⁸	20	77	48	-1	9	-8	-	-0.18	-	6.74	-2.56	72	79
Klamath Falls	30	76	53	+6	24	+10	-	-0.15	-	15.31	4.31	139	92
Klamath Falls ⁸	30	75	53	+6	25	+11	-	-0.15	-	15.07	4.07	137	122
Lakeview	34	75	53	+8	22	+12	-	-0.28	-	8.12	-4.02	67	64
Lorella ⁸	28	78	52	+6	23	+9	0.13	-0.02	1	17.43	6.43	158	114
Redmond	23	80	49	+4	20	+6	-	-0.14	-	8.87	2.74	145	75
Worden ⁸	31	76	54	+7	29	+15	0.19	0.04	3	13.13	2.13	119	112
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	24	75	48	+1	11	-3	0.17	-0.04	2	7.07	0.36	105	79
Joseph	24	72	47	+4	6	+6	0.19	-0.23	1	15.86	-3.28	83	105
La Grande	28	75	52	+3	20	+1	0.12	-0.23	1	5.48	-7.43	42	67
Prairie City ⁸	23	74	48	+6	13	+13	0.06	-0.22	1	11.13	-5.01	69	85
Union	30	77	52	+5	21	+7	0.11	-0.21	1	8.65	-0.38	96	89
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	35	82	57	+4	52	+9	0.23	0.09	1	12.13	4.54	160	80
Rome	27	80	51	+2	19	-2	-	-0.21	-	8.62	3.15	158	74

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

² Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

³ Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁵ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2005.

⁶ DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

⁷ Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

⁸ Agri-Met weather stations.